



THE WORKING KELPIE COUNCIL OF AUST. INC.

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INTRODUCTION

The first National Kelpie Field Trial was held at Manildra Golf Course NSW 1969 and was won by J E "Jack" Mills of Orange NSW working Waringa Mulga. Between 1969 and 1980 the trial was hosted in New South Wales. In 1981 it was hosted in Victoria for the first time at Mortlake. From 1983 onward the trial has been hosted annually in a different Australia State

Since 2001 the Working Kelpie Council has sponsored the prize money for the National Kelpie Field Trial Championship and has enjoyed the support of hosting committees who have contributed greatly to the overall standard of the work displayed and the prestige position the trial now enjoys.

The trial usually attracts an entry of approximately 100 WKC Stud registered dogs from all States.

JUDGING GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL KELPIE TRIAL

The NKFTC should not be viewed as a 3 sheep arena trial, a yard trial or a utility trial- It should be judged as a unique event with its own specific rules. From a Breed Society's point of view It is generally agreed that the dogs outside work is of prime importance and that the WKC's sponsorship of the NKFTC should be to encourage the production of good natural casting and mustering dogs which can be useful in the yards. The emphasis on outside performance is supported by the allocation of 70 of a total of 100 points.

COURSE: The course as set in the National Kelpie Field Trial Championship is designed to assess the ability of Kelpies to carry out effective work under conditions simulating paddock and yard conditions. Points allotted are a **maximum of 70 for field work and 30 for yard work. Special WKC By-law 11.3.2.4** "In addition to the yard section the course shall include 3 additional obstacles one of which is a free standing pen" The trial can finish with either the yard section or a free standing pen

FIELD WORK:

CAST, LIFT AND DRAW: Special WKC By-Law 9.6.9 "One cross with a 20 point penalty is permitted"

The **cast** should be wide enough that the sheep are not unsettled before the cast is completed. The ideal is a free-running cast with the dog steadying and lifting the sheep cautiously. The dog should stop in the position where he has most control before commencing the draw and fetch. The sheep should be delivered to the handler in the circle in as straight a line as possible, the handler is free to move to any position within the circle. The sheep, on delivery to the circle, should be **steadied** but do not necessarily have to be halted. The judge will indicate when the sheep have been steadied to his satisfaction.

COURSE: Depending upon the course layout The sheep must be kept on a right hand course regardless whether on route to the obstacles or to the yard, travelling as quietly as possible with the dog in a position of control at all times. Any unwarranted assistance given at obstacles should be heavily penalised and all points for an obstacle deducted if the assistance given so warrants. The field work must finish with a free standing pen except where the trial finishes with the yard section..

The time for the trial should be at least 15 minutes and possibly more if the cast is over 200 yards. Crossing outside the yards should incur disqualification.(Exception: A cross in the cast with a 20 point penalty is permitted)

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YARD WORK:

Following the cast lift and draw , or following the finish of the field work the sheep are then taken in as straight line as possible to the yards. The handler should stand with one hand on the open gate at yards until sheep are in.

Special WKC By-laws (Yard)

11.3.2.3 : An easily worked yard segment designed to permit and encourage calm movement of the sheep through the yard, race and draft.

11.3.2.3.1 Dogs which work the yards effectively without backing or barking are not to be penalised .(Adopted 25/4/2007)

11.3.2.3.2 The total points allocated to the yard section shall not exceed 30% of the total points for the course.(Modified and adopted 12/8/2001)

11.3.2.3.3 The worker cannot lose more points in this section than the total allocated for the section. (

Adopted 12/8/2001)

11.3.2.3.4 The Judge to advise the worker when the 30 points for the (Yard) section have been lost and ask the worker to "move on" to assist his dog to finish the yard section or to retire. (First part Adopted 12/8/2001) (Adopted

15/7/2007)

Throughout the work in the yards, the handler should take up his position at each gate. If this position is not maintained points are deducted. However, he may assist the dog at any time for the loss of points, according to the amount of assistance given.

If any sheep are distressed or down, they **must** be assisted to their feet with no penalty incurred, except in the case where the dog causes the sheep to go down. Overworking and unnecessary aggression, causing the sheep to jam, should be penalised. A free flow around the yards is the aim, with the least possible stress to the sheep. In the case of stubborn sheep, barking, light nipping and mouthing of sheep by dogs is permitted. The latter two may incur a penalty. Severe biting must mean disqualification. Dogs are allowed to start sheep in race and draft by pulling top knot of sheep whilst backing.

The handler must fasten all gates in the yard and loses points (maximum of 2 points per gate) if not done. In the event of a sheep jumping into a wrong yard, the worker should return the sheep to correct yard for a loss of points. If, however, a sheep jumps out of the perimeter of the yards it shall be deemed a LOST SHEEP and trial will terminate.

Whilst working in the yards, any method can be used to fill the race and draft, but effectiveness is the criterion of the work and points allocated accordingly, ie if a dog goes over the sheep and they do not move to the desired position, points should be deducted for ineffective work. Points should also be deducted for a dog being in the wrong position or wrong yard to carry out the work to be done. If a dog leaves the area of the yards it should be disqualified

When drafting, the worker may attempt to fill the race before taking his place at the drafting gate. If sheep refuse to enter the race the worker may assist by starting them off, for a loss of points each time a sheep is handled. Any mistakes in drafting must be corrected for a penalty of 2 points per mistake.



NKFTC BY-LAWS as at 15/7/2007

- 1 **NAME:** The official name of the trial is the **NATIONAL KELPIE FIELD TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP** (adopted 23/4/1984) - **NKFTC** also referred to as the **National Kelpie Trial**. *Adopted 25/4/2007*
- 2 **HOSTING** :Is subject to receipt and approval of a successful application from an interested group who agree to abide by the by-laws currently in force.
- 2.1 The NKFTC is available for conduct annually as a single event it is **NOT** available for a hosting in conjunction with another trial other than a host organised Novice Kelpie event *adopted 25/4/2007*
- 3 **.VENUE:**
- 3.1 On suitable properties where sheep are readily available *Adopted 25/4/2007*
- 3.2 This condition may be varied in certain circumstances with prior permission of the WKC Board.
- 3.3 At different Australian State locations, rotating States each year if possible
- 4 **SPONSORSHIP & NAMING RIGHT :**
- 4.1 The WKC holds NKFTC sponsorship rights.
- 4.2 For the time being WKC funding shall be \$2000.00 for prizemoney (*See section 7.1.3*) Additionally a \$500.00 donation towards organising costs
- 4.3 Acknowledgements of other Sponsorship is acceptable other than the naming rights of the NKFTC
- 4.4 Naming rights for a host organised Novice Kelpie event (if held) is available.
- 5 **INCOME & EXPENDITURE:**
- 5.1 All profits received from the running of The National Kelpie Field Trial Championship shall be credited to the host body.
- 5.2 Any debts incurred by the host body or individuals assisting it will be the entire responsibility of the host body.
- 5.3
- 6 **DEFINITIONS AND/OR INTERPRETATIONS:**
To assess eligibility for NKFTC awards for Novice dogs and/or Novice Handlers which/ who have competed in the NKFTC the following criteria applies:-
- 6.1 **NOVICE DOG** is a dog WKC registered to A2 grade appendix or higher which has never won any recognised or advertised sheepdog trials, competitions or challenges excluding 1 encourage trial win. *(Adopted:20/9/92)*
- 6.2 **RECOGNISED SHEEPDOG TRIAL** is any type of sheepdog trial or competition conducted by any organisation formed to conduct or supervise sheepdog trials, competitions or challenges. But excluding events such as Local Club/Training day Trials etc., aimed at encouraging newcomers to the sport. *(Adopted:20/9/92)*
- 6.3 **NOVICE HANDLER** is a person who had never won a recognised sheepdog trial or competition excluding 1 Encourage trial win and working a dog WKC registered A2grade appendix or higher which has not won a recognised or advertised sheepdog trial,
- 6.4 **NKFTC** or National Kelpie trial means "National Kelpie Field Trial Championship"
(Adopted 24/6/2001 modified 25/4/ 2007)
- 7 **ADDITIONAL EVENTS** *(New Heading Adopted 25/4/07)*
- 7.1 The host committee has the right to decide whether or not it wishes to hold a novice event for Kelpies. If to be held the following criteria applies: *(Adopted 17/6/2007)*
- 7.1.1 that any dog entered in both a host organised Novice Kelpie trial & the NKFTC event **MUST have a separate run in each event** *(Adopted 25/4/07)*
- 7.1.2 that the WKC does NOT provide any extra funding to support a Novice Kelpie kelpie trial or any other events, the costs are the responsibility of the host committee *(Adopted 25/4/07)*
- 7.1.3 that the format of a Novice Kelpie event be left to the host committee with the exception that all dogs entered must be kelpies, and the Novice CANNOT be run (with any other) or be part of another trial. *(Adopted 25/4/07)*
- 7.2 If the host body wishes to include events for other working breeds in the overall programme the following criteria applies: *(Adopted 17/6/2007)*
- 7.2.1 Additional events which includes other working dog breeds (with or without kelpies included) **must be run as a completely separate events**. ie. Either held before or after the NKFTC and a Novice Kelpie event (if held) *(Adopted 17/6/2007)*
- 8 **HOSTING COMMITTEES OR ORGANISATIONS:**
- 8.1 The acceptance of an application to host the National Kelpie Field Trial Championship shall be conditional upon the host body agreeing to:
- 8.1.1 Abide by the National Kelpie Field Trial Championship By-laws.
- 8.1.2 Appoint their particular WKC State board member and/or State representative as ex-officio member/members of their hosting committee and keep them fully informed on all aspects of the proposed hosting. to enable them to report at WKC Board Meetings..
(Adopted 12/8/2001)

- 8.1.3 100% of all the prizemoney sponsorship contributed by the WKC is to be allocated as National Kelpie Field Trial Championship prizemoney and trophies. The host committee may seek WKC approval for variation of this rule in special circumstances. (Adopted 14/11/99- modified 24/6/2001 modified & Adopted 25/4/2007)
- 8.1.4 Submit a plan of the course, the rules to be applied and the name of judge as soon as practicable and at least 2 month before the closing date for participants applications, to enable publication in the WKC News Bulletin (See also Section 9.6)
- 8.1.5 Ensure that the Judge/Judges receive copy of the trial guidelines and trial By-laws when invited to judge and ensure that they agree to the conditions outlined therein. **Important see Clause 12.2.2.below**
- 8.2 Where possible the host committee should supply a video tape of the final preferably taken on Video supplied by the W.K.C. the original of which becomes the copyright property of the W.K.C. who will supply free copy to the host organisation (Adopted 14/11/99> modified & adopted 25/4/2007)
- 8.3 Forward full results immediately following the conclusion of the trial. <adopted: 13/7/91>
- 9 **RULES**
- 9.1 The trial rules to be applied shall be the responsibility of the host organisation and shall be submitted to the W.K.C. board for approval.
- 9.2 It is the responsibility of the Host organisation to ensure that the entry form clearly states the rules under which the trial is to be conducted. e.g "To be conducted underSDWA rules except where special NKFTC rules apply." (Adopted 24/6/2001)
- 9.3 If the trial is to be conducted under a special set of rules drawn up by the host organisation a copy of the Rules should be set out in full on the entry form. (Adopted 24/6/2001)
- 9.4 A copy of the trial rules being used should be available on the ground for public perusal. (Adopted 24/6/2001)
- 9.5 **APPLICABLE NKFTC RULES: (These rules override any rules which conflict with those selected by the host organisation)**
- 9.6 **DRAW** The following system is to be applied: (Adopted 25/4/07)
- 9.6.1 A draw must be conducted to determine the order of working prior to the start of the trial.
- 9.6.2 Every worker must be drawn to work a dog before any worker is drawn to work his/her second dog (except when 9.6.6 applies)
- 9.6.3 All dogs must be drawn in order nominated in the entry form.
- 9.6.4 Where post entries are accepted workers must nominate all dogs before working their first dog.
- 9.6.5 All workers must be issued either with a copy of the draw or a copy must be displayed in a prominent position. A public address system should be employed where ever possible to keep both workers and spectators informed.
- 9.6.6 That a worker who has only 1 dog be permitted to be drawn in the last round if they so wish.
- 9.6.7 That all workers, other than single dog workers, must work one dog in the last round. *Clauses 9.6.1 - 9.6.7 Adopted 25/4/2007*
- SHEEP:**
- 9.6.8 Sheep used in the cast, lift and draw are to be worked through the yards and the same sheep drafted out and used to complete the course. In special circumstances the host committee may seek WKC permission to vary this requirement (Adopted 25/4/2007)
- CAST**
- 9.6.9 "One cross with a 20 point penalty is permitted .(Adopted 25/4/2007)
- YARD**
- 9.6.10 Dogs which work the yards effectively without backing or barking are not to be penalised (Adopted 25/4/2007)
- 10 **ELIGIBILITY OF ENTRY**
- 10.1 Only dogs registered to the W.K.C National Stud Register A2 grade appendix or higher shall be deemed eligible to compete in the NKFTC".
- 10.2 Eligible dogs may be worked by another person with the owners permission. The nominated handler cannot be replaced after the draw except under extreme circumstances and with the approval of the Disputes Committee (Adopted 25/4/2007).
- 11 **COURSE AND CONTENT:**
- RATIONALE** The NKFTC should not be viewed as a 3 sheep arena trial, a yard trial or a utility trial- It should be viewed as a unique event with its own specific rules. From a Breed Society's point of view It is generally agreed that the dogs outside work is of prime importance and that the WKC's sponsorship of the NKFTC should be to encourage the production of good natural casting and mustering dogs who can be useful in the yards. The emphasis on outside performance is supported by the allocation of 70 of a total of 100 points.
- 11.1 The trial shall be conducted as a Field trial with the overall course designed to give the dog and handler every chance of completing the course.
- 11.2 It is mandatory that the dog and handler attempt each of the sections and /or obstacles which make up the trial course (Adopted 12/9/2001)
- 11.2.1 The worker who fails to achieve any section within the time allocated for the course losses all the points for any uncompleted section or sections. (Adopted 24/6/2001)
- 11.3 When planning the course the following is requested:
- 11.3.1 That host committees place prime importance on cast when laying out the course. (Adopted

- 24/6/2001)
- 11.3.2 That where possible the trial comprise the following special requirements:
- 11.3.2.1 SHEEP: The working of 5 sheep. The host committee may seek WKC approval to use 3 sheep if available sheep numbers are limited.
- 11.3.2.2 CAST: A reasonable long cast which should not be less than 100m - (preferably 200m) from the sheep release point.
- 11.3.2.3 YARD: An easily worked yard segment designed to permit and encourage calm movement of the sheep through the yard, race and draft.
- 11.3.2.3.1 Dogs which work the yards effectively without backing or barking are not to be penalised .(Adopted 25/4/2007)
- 11.3.2.3.2 The total points allocated to the yard section shall not exceed 30% of the total points for the course.(Modified and adopted 12/8/2001)
- 11.3.2.3.3 The worker cannot lose more points in this section than the total allocated for the section. (Adopted 12/8/2001)
- 11.3.2.3.4 The Judge to advise the worker when the 30 points for the (Yard) section have been lost and ask the worker to "move on" to assist his dog to finish the yard section or to retire. (First part Adopted 12/8/2001) (Adopted 15/7/2007)
- 11.3.2.3.5 The host committee may seek WKC approval for any variation (Adopted 15/7/2007)
- 11.3.2.4 OBSTACLES: In addition to the yard section the course shall include 3 additional obstacles one of which is a free standing pen - (Modified and adopted 25/4/2007)
- 11.3.2.5 PEN: The final obstacle must be a free standing pen except when the yard section finishes the trial. (Adopted 25/4/2007)

12 JUDGE

RATIONALE: The NKFTC is the National Championship and as such competitors should be able to establish where they lost points. No judge no matter how experienced using a clicker can accurately recall where a particular dog lost points - this can only be done if a score sheet is used
One of the primary purposes of the score sheet is to assist the judge in identifying winners of various trophies such as Best Cast Lift & Draw, Best outside work, Best Yard work etc.etc..

- 12.1 The appointment of the judge or judges shall be the responsibility of the host organisation.
- 12.2 The host must ensure that:-
- 12.2.1 The Judge/judges receive copy of the trial guidelines and trial By-laws when Invited to judge and ensure that they agree to the conditions outlined therein and take into account the trial Guidelines as well as the trial Bylaws when judging the event (adopted 25/4/2007)
- 12.2.2 The Judges are prepared to use score sheets when judging. The Judge may request a pencil to assist him if he so wishes (Adopted 15/7/2007).
- 12.2.2.1 The score sheet, which remains the property of the judge, may be used by the judge to answer questions from competitors. (Adopted 15/7/2007)
- 12.2.2.2 The score may not be used to challenge the Judges decision which is final.
- 12.3 The host committee may seek WKC approval for any variation. (Adopted 15/7/2007)

13 TRIAL PLACINGS:

- 13.1 Provision shall be made for 6 placegetters from a final of at least 7 finalists and for the presentation of perpetual trophies controlled by the W.K.C.
- 13.2 Additionally provision shall be made for the judging of the Bradley Sisters' trophy for best type Kelpie, which has competed in the trial. (Adopted: 8/11/87.)

14 DISPUTES OR APPEALS:

- 14.1 In the case of a dispute or an appeal the committee appointed by the host committee to adjudicate shall include a WKC Board member or a WKC Governing member if a WKC Board member is unavailable. (Adopted 14/11/99)

15 MEETINGS:

- 15.1 In the advent of a General Meeting of members being held to coincide with the staging of the trial the following requirements shall apply:- (Adopted 8/11/87)
- 15.2 Notice of matters to be discussed must be submitted in writing to the W.K.C. 21 days prior to the commencement of the trial. Matters pertaining to the current trial may be discussed without prior notice.

16 ALTERATION, ADDITION OR DELETION OF BY-LAWS.

The Board reserves the right, following due notice to all elected members, to adopt any additional by-laws deemed necessary and to amend or delete any of the by-laws set out above.